

Message Text

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73

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CEQ-02 EPA-04 COME-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5304

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 07527

DEPT PASS CEQ

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SENV, GW

SUBJECT: AIR POLLUTION IN KNAPSACK

REF: A. STATE 088803; B. STATE 099179

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED
EMBASSY BY OFFICIAL OF STATE OF NORTHRHINE WESTPHALIA
REGARDING KNAPSACK AG FACTORY IN KNAPSACK, GERMANY.
QUOTE KNAPSACK AG IS PLANNING TO BUILD AN ADDITION TO
ITS EXISTING FACILITY. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS A NUMBER OF
FAMILIES, WHO PRESENTLY LIVE IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE THE
PLANT BOUNDARIES IN THE AREA OF PLANNED EXPANSION, ARE
BEING RELOCATED IN A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM INVOLVING THE
COMPANY AND THE STATE (LAND) GOVERNMENT. SOME
OF THESE FAMILIES HAVE MEMBERS EMPLOYED AT KNAPSACK AG.
THE PRACTICE OF RELOCATING FAMILIES AND EVEN ENTIRE
VILLAGES HAS BEEN IN EFFECT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC FOR
A NUMBER OF YEARS. A CASE IN POINT IS THE ONGOING
PROGRAM OF THE BROWN COAL COMPANY AT ITS OPEN- PIT MINES
NEAR COLOGNE. THE STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPLEMENTS THE FUNDS
OF THE KNAPSACK PROJECT BUT NO COST ESTIMATES ARE
AVAILABLE. END UNCLASSIFIED UNQUOTE

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2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AND FYI. EMBOFF HAS
DRIVEN THROUGH TOWN OF KNAPSACK WHEN SMOKE AND STEAM
FROM FACTORY, A SUBSIDIARY OF HOECHST AG, WAS THICK
ENOUGH TO OBSCURE THE HIGHWAY. HOWEVER, STATE OFFICIALS
MAINTAIN THAT EVEN THOUGH FACTORY EXCEEDS SULFUR DIOXIDE
AND DUST STANDARDS, KNAPSACK IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF
EXISTING LAW SINCE EMISSION STANDARDS ENACTED IN 1959
APPLY ONLY TO FACTORIES BUILT AFTER THAT DATE. SOME
EMISSIONS ARE PRODUCED BY LIGNITE- FUELED ELECTRIC
POWER STATION, OWNED BY COMPANY. OFFICIALS STATE
THAT AIR POLLUTION IS NOT THE CAUSE FOR RELOCATING
FAMILIES AND
ALLEGE ARTICLE QUOTED IN REF A CONFUSES TWO DISTINCT
SITUATIONS. REPORTEDLY, COMPANY HAS DEVELOPED " CLOSED
CARBIDE FURNACE" TO REDUCE NOXIOUS EMISSIONS RESULTING
FROM ACETYLENE PRODUCTION AS PART ITS EFFORTS AT
POLLUTION CONTROL.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT. OUR PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS
SUGGEST THAT SITUATION IS CONTROVERSIAL AND MORE
COMPLEX THAN IMPLIED BY " FRIENDS OF EARTH" PUBLICATION.
WE RECOMMEND AGAINST DISCUSSION IN OFFICIAL USG
PUBLICATION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AND FYI.
HILLENBRAND

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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